

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO USDEL SECRETARY IN TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 7029

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8227

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT: JOINT STATEMENT

REF: KABUL 5848

1. I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE US
SIDE SHOULD NOT AGREE TO USE OF WORD "NEGOTIATIONS" IN THE
US/AFGHAN JOINT STATEMENT. THIS SEEMS PATENTLY AN AFGHAN ATTEMPT
TO FORMALLY ALIGN USG WITH A POSITION COMPLETELY UNACCEPT-
ABLE TO THE PAKS. IT COULD WELL, IN PAK EYES, INTERJECT US INTO
MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUE BETWEEN KABUL AND ISLAMABAD ON AFGHAN SIDE.
GOP BELIEVES THAT WHEN AFGHANS CALL
FOR "NEGOTIATIONS" AS A MEANS OF SETTLING DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN STATES, THEY ARE IMPLICITLY ASKING FOR NEGOTIATIONS
ON THE ONLY MAJOR DISPUTE GOA HAS WITH A NEIGHBORING STATE-
THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. GOP THEREFORE VIEWS THIS AS
UNWARRANTED CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON A SUBJECT IT SEES
AS BASICALLY A DOMESTIC POLITICAL MATTER.

2. IT CAN HARDLY BE ARGUED THAT THIS IS A GENERAL SENTENCE
WITH GLOBAL REFERENCE AS AFGHANS HAVE LONG PROCLAIMED
THAT THEY HAVE NO "DIFFERENCES" WITH ANY OTHER NATION
BESIDES PAKISTAN. IF THE GOA WANTED THE PHRASE USING
"NEGOTIATIONS" INCLUDED AS MERELY AN ANODYNE REFERENCE TO
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INTERNATIONAL AMITY, I BELIEVE THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN

SO INSISTENT TO SEE IT IN THE STATEMENT. THIS ADAMANCY INDICATES TO ME THEY SEE IT AS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

3. GOP UNDOUBTEDLY SAW USE OF "NEGOTIATIONS" IN SOVIET/PAK COMMUNIQUE IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT- HAVING A GLOBAL APPLICABILITY. WHEN USED BY THE AFGHANS IT TAKES ON A SPECIAL, AND UNSAVORY, MEANING IN PAK PERCEPTION. BHUTTO MAY WELL HAVE REFERRED TO "NEGOTIATIONS" DURING A DINNER SPEECH IN KABUL. HE WOULD SEE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WAXING ELOQUENT USING THE WORD DURING A DINNER IN KABUL-WITHOUT PRESS COVERAGE-AND IT APPEARING IN A FORMAL US/AFGHAN JOINT STATEMENT.

4. BHUTTO WAS GRACIOUS IN BOWING TO OUR STRONG OBJECTION TO THE USE OF PEHSAWAR AS REGARDS THE SECRETARY'S VIST BUT THESE THINGS LEAVE THEIR MARK. ALSO THERE ARE MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE HE HAS TO DISCUSS WITH THE SECRETARY WHILE HE IS HERE. IT SEEMS TO ME WE SHOULD BE VERY FIRM IN NOT ADDING THIS UNNECESSARY IRRITANT. WE HAVE OFTEN ENCOUNTERED THIS TYPE OF JOCKEYING FOR ADVANTAGE ON LEVEL OF FOREIGN OFFICE HERE. MY HOPE WOULD BE THAT DAOUD, LIKE BHUTTO, WOULD NOT PUSH THE SECRETARY FOR SUCH AN EPHEMERAL ADVANTAGE.
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